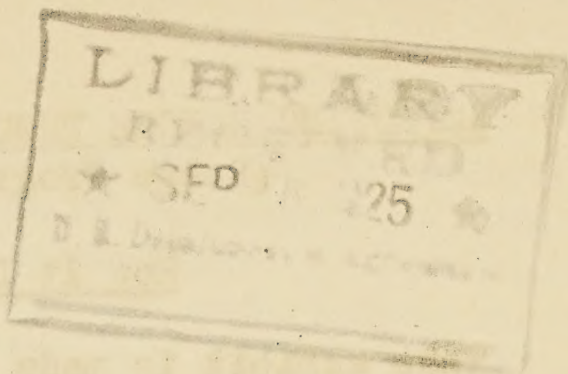


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

IMPROVING RANGES THROUGH RODENT CONTROL

A scenic booth exhibit showing the necessity of eradicating rodents in order to improve the range.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 5'-3" front, 4'-3"  
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.  
Shipping weight - - - - - 600 lbs.  
Electrical requirements - 110 volt A.C. or D.C.  
current. 200 watts for lights.



## IMPROVING RANGES THROUGH RODENT CONTROL

(Range Program No. 2)

### How It Looks

This exhibit is made up into the enclosed or hollow type of booth having a depth of about four feet. The scenic effect is produced by a miniature modeled foreground which blends into the painted background. Mounted rodent pests are fitted into the scenery in a very lifelike manner. A concealed electric lighting arrangement is used to give the proper light effect to make it seem real. This scene is a typical one and is applicable over a large portion of the West.

Just below the scene are two pictures showing a range before and after rodents were destroyed. The booth is 5'-3" across the front, 4'-3" deep and 8'-4" high.

### What It Tells

Steady progress is being made in the control of rodents such as prairie dogs, ground squirrels, pocket gophers and jack rabbits which have persisted and in many instances increased excessively in the face of ordinary agricultural and stock-raising conditions. Because of their widespread distribution they cause heavy losses of forage and other crops and range grasses. Investigations by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture have determined successful methods of reducing the number of rodent pests and plans have been devised for large scale organization of systematic field operations for this purpose. The work of Federal, State and local agencies has been coordinated so that the task of clearing great areas can be conducted in an orderly way. The work has been supported actively by farmers and stockmen as the direct benefits which are evident from it appeal to their business judgment.

Large scale operations have been greatly facilitated through the hearty cooperation of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work and the State extension ser-



vice organizations, including the county agricultural agents. State departments of agriculture, county commissioners and livestock organizations have taken an increasingly active part in the undertaking and officials of the Forest Service, the Office of Indian Affairs, and the Reclamation Service have cooperated most helpfully on lands under their control. Cooperation is arranged also with the United States Public Health Service and with State, county and municipal health organizations in lines of work where rodents are important agencies in the dissemination of such diseases as bubonic and pneumonic plague, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularaemia.

The principal field operations in the range states are conducted against prairie dogs, ground squirrels, jack rabbits and pocket gophers. These animals may reduce the forage available for livestock from 25 to 50 per cent and often completely denude large areas of productive grazing lands of all the available grasses. Occurrence of such animals in large numbers results in a decrease in the numbers of livestock that can be maintained on a given area. Their presence also interferes with the success of deferred grazing or grazing rotation practices as they continue to feed upon the grasses during the period that stock are kept off, and finding such areas more favorable for their feeding, increase in numbers and destructiveness. Because of this, organized campaigns to eliminate the destructive activities of such animals wherever they occur are an essential feature of any well ordered range improvement program.

#### Where to Get Information

Apply to the Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. or to its local Leaders of Rodent Control, or representatives of the Agricultural Extension Service. Secure Circular Bi 175 - Directions for Poisoning Pocket Gophers.



